

## BLOCK MUSEUM NAMES NEW PICK-LAUDATI CURATOR OF MEDIA ARTS

Michelle Puetz will join Block's curatorial team from Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago

The [Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art](#) at Northwestern University has announced that [Michelle Puetz](#), 2013-15 Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Curatorial Fellow at the [Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago \(MCA\)](#), will join the museum on July 13, 2015 as Pick-Laudati Curator of Media Arts.

Puetz brings wide-ranging knowledge of moving images from classic film to experimental video, extensive programming experience and a fresh curatorial vision to this position. As Pick-Laudati Curator of Media Arts, she will guide the presentation of "time-based media" (contemporary artworks that include film, video, slides, audio or computer-based technologies) at the Block Museum in a variety of contexts, including [Block Cinema](#) and the museum's galleries, and she will develop innovative programs related to time-based media.



"Michelle Puetz possesses an ideal balance of film knowledge and museum curatorial experience," said [Kathleen Bickford Berzock](#), associate director of curatorial affairs at the Block Museum. "With her global focus and deep commitment to collaboration and interdisciplinary connections, Michelle's practice matches our mission. We are confident that she will help us revolutionize the presentation of film and time-based media in the museum."

Puetz's vast experience includes curating moving-image installations; programming film and performance that complements museum exhibitions; acquiring and archiving time-based media works; speaking at lectures and conferences; teaching and writing; and working at film festivals.

At the MCA, Puetz embarked upon a variety of initiatives that exemplify her expanded practice and capacity as a curator of media arts. She curated the recent exhibition, "[Body Doubles](#)," which included two large-scale video installations, an artists' publication and numerous companion screenings and events. In 2013, she curated an exhibition of new work by artist [Lilli Carré](#) that featured ceramic sculptures, drawings and a double projection video installation. She collaborated with the library and archives staff on a large-scale video digitization project and was the lead researcher for the MCA's 2013 artist-in-residence, [Goshka Macuga](#). Puetz also organized the Chicago premiere screening of Leslie Buchbinder's documentary, "[Hairy Who & The Chicago Imagists](#)" in 2014.

"Having moved fluidly between the categories of scholar, curator, teacher, programmer, archivist and projectionist, I look forward to bringing these skills together at the Block, which is in the unique position to expand the definition of film programming and curation," Puetz said. "I am excited to develop time-based media programs and exhibitions that are global in scope, expansive in their embrace of genre, history and style, and push the boundaries and possibilities of the museum."

Prior to her work at the MCA, Puetz served as director of programming and archivist for [The Chicago Film Archives](#), a non-profit regional film archive (2004-13). She has worked at the [Sundance Film Festival](#) (2007-13), the [Traverse City Film Festival](#) (2007-14), the [Tribeca Film Festival](#) (2008) and the [Dubai International Film Festival](#) (2006-07), among others.

Puetz is an active educator, teaching at the [School of the Art Institute of Chicago](#) since 2008 in the departments of film, video, new media and animation and art history, theory, and criticism; as well as at the [University of Illinois at Chicago](#) as an adjunct assistant professor in the School of Art and Design.

“Michelle Puetz has vision,” said [James J. Hodge](#), assistant professor of English and the [Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities](#). “An experienced curator, film historian and projectionist, I can think of no individual better suited to leading Block Cinema into the 21st century while continuing to value the moving image and its historical relation to the arts. Her passion for emerging artists, experimental arts, and for forging ties to faculty and community interests will catalyze an exciting new era for cinema at Northwestern.”

Puetz received a Ph.D., in cinema and media studies, Division of the Humanities from the University of Chicago in 2012. She attended the Graduate Program in visual and cultural studies, department of art and art history at the University of Rochester from 2000-01, and she obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Tufts University and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts (1999).

“The Block, like Northwestern University, is on the move and Michelle will have a shaping impact on the museum’s future artistic program, connecting the galleries and Block Cinema as never before,” said [Lisa Corrin](#), the Ellen Philips Katz Director of the Block Museum. “She is committed to artists working with moving images in Chicago and internationally and we are all looking forward to new partnerships between the museum and this extraordinary global community of artists and innovators expanding the possibilities of media arts.”

## **ABOUT THE MARY AND LEIGH BLOCK MUSEUM OF ART**

The Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art enriches teaching and learning on the campuses of Northwestern University and in the communities of their surrounding regions by presenting art across time, cultures, and media; convening interdisciplinary discussions in which art is a springboard for exploring issues and ideas; and collecting art that supports the Northwestern University curriculum. Admission is free and open to all.

Visit [www.blockmuseum.northwestern.edu](http://www.blockmuseum.northwestern.edu) to learn more about exhibitions, programs, film screenings, and partnerships.